

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-10 (Canceled)

Claim 11 (currently amended): A binding compound comprising an antibody or a binding fragment thereof which specifically binds to:

a) ~~at least 17 contiguous amino acids from the signal processed form of SEQ ID~~
NO: 15;

b) ~~at least 17 contiguous amino acids from the signal processed form of SEQ ID~~
NO: 17;

or

e) ~~at least 17 contiguous amino acids from the signal processed form of SEQ ID~~
NO: 19.

Claim 12 (currently amended): The binding compound of Claim 11, wherein:

a) said binding compound is:
1) ~~immunoreactive with a polypeptide of the signal processed form of SEQ ID~~
NO: 15;

2) ~~immunoreactive with a polypeptide of the signal processed form of SEQ ID~~
NO: 17;

3) ~~immunoreactive with a polypeptide of the signal processed form of SEQ ID~~
NO: 19; or

b) said binding compound is:
1) an antibody molecule;
2) present in a polyclonal antiserum;
3) detectably labeled;
4) sterile; or
5) in a buffered composition.

Claim 13 (Original): A method using the binding compound of Claim 11, comprising contacting said binding compound with a biological sample comprising an antigen, thereby forming a binding compound:antigen complex.

Claim 14 (Original): The method of Claim 13, wherein said biological sample is from a human, and wherein said binding compound is an antibody.

Claim 15 (Previously presented): A detection kit comprising said binding compound of Claim 12, and:

- a) instructional material for the use of said binding compound for said detection; or
- b) a compartment providing segregation of said binding compound from other kit reagents.

Claims 16-20 (Cancelled)

Claim 21 (Previously presented): The binding compound of claim 11, wherein the binding compound is a monoclonal antibody.

Claim 22 (Previously presented): The binding compound of claim 11, wherein the binding compound is a humanized antibody.

Claim 23 (New): A binding compound comprising an antibody or a binding fragment thereof which specifically binds to a protein encoded by SEQ ID NO: 17.